THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) So far 8.05 lakh nurses have been registered with various State Nursing Councils in India. There are 633 General Nursing and Midwifery Schools, 175 Basic B. Sc. (Nursing) and 24 M.Sc. (Nursing) colleges functioning in the country and about 25,000 to 30,000 nurses are qualifying every year. As such, there is no shortage of trained nurses in India. Government of India is also supporting the State Governments for establishing new schools and for upgradation of existing nursing educational institutions. Under the 10th Plan, Rs. 100.00 crores have been allocated for development of Nursing Services in various parts of the country.

Import of food supplements

*98. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of food supplements for weight loss and muscle building from abroad are flooding the market without any check; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to regulate import of these products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Under the Exim Policy, import of any item is governed as per General Notes regarding Import Policy and Import Licensing Notes under the relevant chapter of the ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import Items. Import of edible/food products, domestic sale and manufacture of which are governed by Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 are subject to all the conditions contained in the Act. Import of these products have also to comply with the quality and packaging requirements as laid down in other relevant Acts. There also other enactments such as Drugs and cosmetics Act and Drugs and Magic Remedies (OA) Act which are administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are considering a proposal to prepare a Health Food supplement Bill on which no final decision has been taken.

Rates of Pay channels

†*99. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether any yard-stick has been set to determine the prices of pay channels to be charged by the cable operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the four metro cities, wherein the CAS is proposed to be implemented, the price determination shall be uniform; and

(d) the measures likely to be taken to ensure that the cable opertors may not charge more than the fixed charges and may not increase them frequently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Government has, through notification issued on 7-5-2003, specified Rs. 72/- (plus taxes) as the maximum price of basic service tier, consisting of not less than 30 free-to-air channels of different genres of entertainment, news, sports, children's programmes and music in the four metros when CAS is going to be implemented. The notification is available in the Ministry's website.

(d) Under the provisions of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, as amended up-to-date, the overcharging by the cable operator, over and above the rates fixed by the Government for fee to air channels, will constitute a cognizable offence.

Agreement on comprehensive Economic Cooperation with ASEAN

*100. SHRI MOOL CHAND MEENA :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed a Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), paving the way for a Free Trade Area within a ten year timeframe;

(b) if so, whether China has also signed similar agreement for three years with the ASEAN;